

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the Abstract with the attached amended/substitute Abstract. A marked-up copy of the Abstract follows.

ABSTRACT

There is provided a particulate matter combustion catalyst which allows easy combustion of particulate matter collected on the particulate matter filter of a diesel vehicle, at a much lower temperature than by the prior art.

—The particulate matter combustion catalyst has a construction characterized by ~~comprising~~ an NO oxidation catalyst wherein the catalyst component is carried on an acidic first carrier, and an NO₂ decomposition catalyst wherein the catalyst component is carried on a second carrier. Preferably, the NO oxidation catalyst has a precious metal such as platinum carried on an acidic first carrier such as tungstic acid/zirconia, and the NO₂ decomposition catalyst has a catalyst component selected from ~~the group consisting of~~ the transition metals carried on a second carrier such as titania, or alternatively, the NO₂ decomposition catalyst has at least one metal selected from among alkali metals and alkaline earth metals and a precious metal such as platinum carried on a second carrier such as titania.